



environs

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Dear Supporter,

Environs Kimberley continues to go from strength to strength and build in prominence. Our membership is growing through the Kimberley and elsewhere; we have a very active group in Broome. The information display at the Courthouse Markets, complete with banner and posters, continues to attract a good deal of interest from both locals and tourists.

The campaign to protect the Fitzroy River is moving into a new phase. The successful proponent has been announced. Once a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the state government, Western Agricultural Industries will spend a couple of years conducting a feasibility study, and further developing their plans.

We now have our membership list on a database, and future mail-outs should reach all our members. Apologies to those who missed out on earlier bulletins. You were not alone.

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: EK is an incorporated association and has an executive committee which is responsible for policy decisions. Individual members may not write letters or make statements to the press or broadcasting media on behalf of Environs Kimberley without executive approval. You have the right to voice any opinion as a member of the public, but please do not cite your membership of EK.

ACF/KLC Launch - Most of our members will have seen or read some coverage of the joint campaign/pamphlet launch in Perth by the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Kimberley Land Council. Perth-based founding member Finn Pedersen was there for Environs Kimberley. The pamphlet, **The Kimberley at the Crossroads**, is available as a colour supplement in the Habitat Magazine of the ACF, or as a free-standing lift-out. We have a number of copies, but if you want mail order, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to us or direct to ACF.

A delegation of shadow ministers from the ALP recently made a tour of the West and Central Kimberley: Judith Edwards (Environment), Kim Chance (Agriculture & Fisheries), Ken Travers (Water Resources) and Tom Helm (Works & Services). This was their annual audit of the region re public satisfaction with government services. A major item was the government's plans for the Fitzroy River. The party, accompanied by EK committee member Peter Bibby, visited Derby, Camballin (esp. the results of previous irrigation projects), Fitzroy Crossing

(a key meeting to consult Bunuba elders), and flew over proposed dam sites at Dimond Gorge, Leopold & Margaret Rivers. The flight brought home the vastness of the area that would be flooded, the many features of country and habitat that would be lost underwater.

Following their tour of the Kimberley, the delegation held a public meeting at Lotteries House, where the feeling was overwhelmingly anti-dam. John Logan (WAI) was also invited to address the meeting. He described his proposal, which entails a 240 metre high dam (or three), a 600 kilometre long double-fenced irrigation canal to carry water from the dam across ten pastoral leases to the 250,000 hectares of cotton fields on land east of Broome. The entire catchment area of the dam site would have to be de-stocked to reduce sedimentation. The Opposition will form a policy on dams and irrigation plans after party discussions in Perth. They would probably find it difficult to take a stance which appears to be against jobs and development. They need realistic options. EK should formulate ours.

Wild River Rage - Environs Kimberley member Duncan Campbell organised a very successful fund- and consciousness-raising concert which was held at Sun Pictures on August 29th. The Pigram Brothers, with guest artist Patrick Davies, Broome Beats, Kerry-Anne Cox, Russell Massey and Gumbo Shuffle played the night away to more than 300 EK supporters. More than \$3,000 was raised, some of which will be used on our Gouldian Finch postcard campaign. Many thanks to artist Phil Belfrage for the work he put in.

Annual General Meeting - EK's inaugural AGM was held on 9 September. The main business was the election of an executive committee. Matt Wrigley was elected Chairperson, with Pat Lowe as Deputy Chairperson. Maria Mann is Secretary and Wendy Albert treasurer. Other committee members are Jo Boots, Peter Bibby, Duncan Campbell and Janice Kent-McKenzie. Ms Kent McKenzie is a Derby member. All others are Broome-based.

Ordinary Meetings, which all EK members are welcome to attend, will now be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm at CIRCLE House.